
Field Allocation Review Committee
July 26, 2012

The Field Allocation Review Committee, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Parks and Recreation Office Conference Room at 201 W. Gray Building C on the 26th day of July, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting 201 West Gray Street, 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, and Perry

Absent: Commissioner Goth

City Officials

Present: Jeff Hill, Recreation Superintendent

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Brockhaus made the motion and Commissioner Chappel seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, and Perry

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

OPENING PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF NORMAN OPTIMIST CLUB

Russ Lowry and Chad Minson, representatives for the Norman Optimist Club were present.

Mr. Lowry stated he had polled his coaches and they would like to maintain use of the larger football fields they had in the past. More teams could practice, they were wider and more like what they would be using. The baseball fields presented a few issues as far as being able to scrimmage. He stated the coaches said the size was an issue and the layouts were not anywhere near the size they were going to use. Mr. Lowry stated he didn't use the facilities, but Mr. Minson does. The east side kids have a hard time finding a place to practice. Mr. Lowry said ideally they would like to keep it the way it had been in the past, but he doesn't

July 26, 2012

want to lose what they had last year and need to maintain some practice fields for these kids in some way. These are kids that live here in Norman.

Chad Minson stated he agreed with Mr. Lowry, but the only thing he would add is if they were not going to get the fields they had in the past they at least continue to do what they did last year with the baseball fields because of the lights. After conversation regarding various practice sites throughout Norman, he again stated if it is not going to work out with the other fields then what they had last year will work.

ITEM 4, being:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Chairman Brigham asked in addition to the size were there any other cons to practicing on the baseball fields. Mr. Lowry replied size was the main thing. They just want to make sure that facilities will be there. Mr. Minson said last year they had six fields, but in a crunch they could use four. It would be close on some nights. Another con would be they are small fields, and you can only get one team per field. A pro is that there is only one team per field and that gives them some privacy from the other teams watching. Chairman Brigham asked if bathrooms and parking being more convenient helped. Mr. Minson replied, the bathrooms were more convenient, but he had to walk further to unlock everything.

Chairman Brigham asked if youth participation was the same as their last report. They stated it had grown some and they anticipate they will be up in numbers the coming year.

Commissioner Chappel asked if the growth they have would be manageable with the six baseball fields. Mr. Minson replied if they could maintain the use, yes. Mr. Lowry stated last year some Optimist members couldn't understand why the Youth of Norman were having to fight with an Adult Flag Football League in the first place. They just want to make sure they have practice facilities for our program. Commissioner Perry responded the committee wants to make sure everyone has something; the plan is not to take away anything. Mr. Minson stated the Optimist Club has a whole new committee and some of the new people coming in now want to be more accountable for everything from money to how they treat the fields and their relationship with the City. He added he has heard all the different arguments and does not see how this will be big deal if we keep it the way it was last year. Some people think it is, but they'll get over it if that is the best they can do.

Chairman Brigham asked if they were to present the same contract for a three year renewal would they sign it. They said yes and Mr. Minson asked if there were any problems the City has encountered with their use of the fields. Mr. Brigham stated none that he has heard.

Chairman Brigham asked about maintenance. Mr. Lowry replied in the past (2010) soccer took care of the football fields, and Optimist did not have to do anything. Last year, the City mowed, marked and took care of them. Mr. Minson stated they tried to make sure there was no issue with the bathrooms before they locked them up and had their coaches pick up trash. Mr. Lowry stated all of the coaches they spoke with said they were appreciative of the facilities. Mr. Minson stated they would be willing to help with any maintenance issues if they are needed to.

Commissioner Brockhaus asked when the season would run this year. Mr. Lowry replied tackle is starting early, August 7-8th. The first game will be September 9th. The flag teams will start after back to school night. They will run through late October, mid November depending on weather.

July 26, 2012

ITEM 5, being:

CLOSING REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF NORMAN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

There was discussion regarding the status of their current use of the fields. Chairman Brigham replied their current contract does not expire until mid September so they were able to go ahead and proceed as they did last year. Chairman Brigham told them the Parks Board was asked to put together a committee to review how the fields were be allocated and to make sure it was fair to all concerned.

ITEM 6, being:

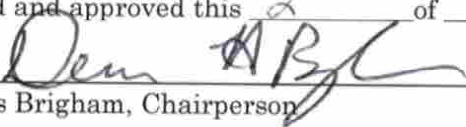
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Brockhaus made the motion and Commissioner Chappel seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel and Perry

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 2nd of August 2012


Dennis Brigham, Chairperson